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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

LI, SHI K

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2613

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/803,875	Applicant(s) SAKAI ET AL.	
	Examiner Shi K. Li	Art Unit 2613	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 May 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,7,9-12 and 21-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3,5,7,9-12 and 21-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 1, 5, 21 and 23 are objected to because of the following informalities: The phrase “number of time” in the added limitation of these independent claims should read “number of times”. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

3. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9-12 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claim 1 recites the limitation “number of time that each of the plurality of signal lights in the WDM light pass through the plurality of optical filter differs” in lines 10-11. Instant specification does not describe the limitation in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

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5. Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamura et al. (EP 0 153 722 A2) in view of Persson (U.S. Patent 6,519,384 B2).

Regarding claim 21, Tamura et al. discloses in FIG. 5 a hybrid optical wavelength division multiplexer-demultiplexer for transmission and reception of wavelength division multiplexed (WDM) signal. The multiplexer-demultiplexer comprises a plurality of optical filters 34a, 34b, 34c and 34d. The difference between Tamura et al. and the claimed invention is that Tamura et al. does not teach arranging the filters to obtain a loss characteristic correspondence with a wavelength-dependent loss characteristic. Persson teaches in col. 2, line 10-17 that channels have the highest link losses are relayed through as few add/drop filter elements as possible. In particular, filter elements are arranged such that received channel wavelengths with a high link loss relative to an allowed link loss are dropped from said transmission medium upstream of received channel wavelengths with a low link loss relative to an allowed link loss. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the teaching of Persson with the optical wavelength division multiplexer-demultiplexer of Tamura et al. because the approach of Persson reduces the likelihood of a small number of channels sustaining significantly higher losses than other channels and thus increases the overall possible transmission distance. Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to arrange the order of the filters to obtain a loss characteristic correspondence with a wavelength-dependent loss characteristic, as taught by Persson, in the optical wavelength division multiplexer-demultiplexer of Tamura et al. because the approach of Persson reduces the likelihood of a small number of channels sustaining significantly higher losses than other channels and thus increases the overall possible transmission distance.

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6. Claims 1, 3 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamura et al. and Persson as applied to claim 21 above, and further in view of Nielsen et al. (U.S. Patent 6,559,988 B1).

Tamura et al. and Persson have been discussed above in regard to claim 21. The difference between Tamura et al. and Persson and the claimed invention is that Tamura et al. and Persson do not teach that the optical filters have same insertion loss. However, it is well known in the art that filters of the same technology have same insertion loss. For example, Nielsen et al. teaches in FIG. 1 to arrange filters so that each wavelength has approximately same insertion loss. Nielsen et al. teaches in col. 5, lines 13-15 that thin film filter 128, 126, 124 and 122 have same insertion loss. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the teaching of Nielsen et al. with the modified optical wavelength division multiplexer-demultiplexer of Tamura et al. and Persson because using filters of same technology simplifies the design and manufacture of the apparatus. Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use filters of same technology for the multiplexer-demultiplexer, as taught by Nielsen et al., in the wavelength division multiplexer-demultiplexer of Tamura et al. and Persson because using filters of same technology simplifies the design and manufacture of the apparatus.

7. Claims 5, 7, 9-12 and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tamura et al., Persson and Nielsen et al. as applied to claims 1, 3 and 22 above, and further in view of Persson et al. (U.S. Patent 7,110,673 B2).

Tamura et al., Persson and Nielsen et al. have been discussed above in regard to claims 1, 3 and 22. Regarding claims 5 and 7, the difference between Tamura et al., Persson and Nielsen

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et al. and the claimed invention is that Tamura et al., Persson and Nielsen et al. do not teach an OSC filter. Persson et al. teaches FIG. 2 an OSC filter 100 for separating OSC channel and the WDM channels. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to combine the teaching of Persson et al. with the modified multiplexer/demultiplexer of Tamura et al., Persson and Nielsen et al. because an OSC channel provides information for signaling and management information for the WDM signals. Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include an OSC channel and use an OSC filter, as taught by Persson et al., in the modified multiplexer/demultiplexer of Tamura et al., Persson and Nielsen et al. because an OSC channel provides information for signaling and management information for the WDM signals.

Regarding claims 9-12, Persson teaches in FIG. 1 that the channels are multiplexed at the sending side and demultiplexed at the receiving side. It is common sense that the compensation of the loss can be done totally in the sending side, totally in the receiving side or divided between the sending side and the receiving side, as long as the overall power levels for all the wavelength channel are equalized.

Regarding claims 23-24, Nielsen teaches in FIG. 4 terminal nodes connected by a fiber. The system of FIG. 4 comprises two or more multiplexer/demultiplexer apparatus. It is also understood that the node of FIG. 5 of Tamura et al. is being connected to another node with similar structure so that the two nodes can exchange information. Therefore, Tamura et al. implies a plurality of multiplexer/demultiplexer apparatus.

Response to Arguments

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8. Applicant's arguments filed 26 May 2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant's arguments are moot in view of the new subject matter.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shi K. Li whose telephone number is 571 272-3031. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (6:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kenneth Vanderpuye can be reached on 571 272-3078. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

skl

18 August 2009

/Shi K. Li/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2613